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Senators comment on the Retirement of Justice O'Connor and the Supreme Court Nomination Process

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"I have nothing but respect for Sandra Day O'Connor and her tenure on the court. As we consider her replacement, it's important that we remember her legacy. America needs judges who are fair, independent, unbiased and committed to equal justice under the law. I'm confident that the president will select a qualified replacement justice who embodies these qualities. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure a fair confirmation process in the Senate that will ensure the Supreme Court is at full strength to start its next term in October." – **Senator Frist**

"The nation owes Justice O'Connor a debt of gratitude. In accepting a lifetime appointment as a guardian of the Constitution, Sandra Day O'Connor dedicated her life to the service of her country and the rule of law. . . . It is my hope that the deliberative process for confirming a new nominee to the court is treated with great respect. In addition, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to act expeditiously once the President forwards the nomination to the Senate." - **Senator Allard**

"As the first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor shattered many barriers and has been a consistent and moderate voice in the high court. In the nearly 25 years she has served as Associate Justice, she has proven time and again to understand and protect our freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution. She leaves an admirable legacy and she will be missed." - **Senator Burns**

"I respect and admire the high degree of integrity, intellect, and judgment that Justice O'Connor contributed during her tenure. I've known her for over 30 years and she's never forgotten her Arizona roots. Arizonans proudly honor her service to the nation... I look forward to a fair process that culminates in an up or down vote to fill the vacancy in time for the start of the Court's new term." - **Senator Kyl**

"Justice O'Connor has served the cause of justice on the federal and state benches for almost three decades. She has approached her duties as an individual judge, and as a member of the judicial branch as a whole, with care and integrity. Her exemplary life reflects so much of what is good about America... The American people are tired of the confrontational partisanship that has characterized the judicial confirmation process in recent years. When President Bush nominates someone to replace Justice O'Connor, the Senate must fulfill its constitutional responsibility to treat the nominee fairly with a full debate on the merits and then an up-or-down vote." - **Senator Hatch**

"I join with my colleagues and my fellow Americans in expressing my deep appreciation to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for her twenty-four years of service on the Supreme Court....For her time on the Court, Justice O'Connor will be remembered as an independent jurist who established a legacy of fairness, moderation and devotion to the public good. As we move into the confirmation process, it is now the job of President Bush and the Senate to nominate and confirm someone of Justice O'Connor's caliber and commitment to the bench. - **Senator Murkowski**

"There is a right way and a wrong way to debate the merits of a Supreme Court nominee. The Senate's past record, unfortunately, has been mixed. Whoever the nominee is, the Senate should focus its attention on judicial qualifications — not personal political beliefs. Whoever the nominee is, the Senate should engage in respectful and honest inquiry, not partisan personal attacks. And whoever the nominee is, the Senate should apply the same fair process that has existed for over two centuries: confirmation or rejection by majority vote. I wish to congratulate Sandra Day O'Connor on her extraordinary life and commitment to public service. I wish her and her family well." - **Senator Cornyn**

"Through her distinguished service to the Supreme Court and our nation, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has earned the gratitude of all Americans. During her tenure, she interpreted the law and defended the Constitution with fairness and independence. President Bush will now submit a nominee for confirmation to serve on the Supreme Court, and I will work with my Senate colleagues to ensure an expeditious confirmation process for the President's nominee." - **Senator Sununu**

"As the first woman confirmed to the Supreme Court she has served the Court with dignity and fairness...Now as we move forward, I expect that any nominee the President sends to the Senate will be treated with fairness and respect, including an up or down vote in the Senate. As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I'll be looking forward to hearing from a nominee who understands that the role of the courts is to interpret the law, not create the law." - **Senator Grassley**

“We will greatly miss Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. She has been a wonderful role model for young women in America and around the world. She is a good friend and I join countless others in thanking her for her service....The Senate will now embark on a journey to fill a vacancy on the high court. This is a task so important to our nation that partisan politics must never enter the equation. I look forward to President Bush nominating a judge who will not make law from the bench. I will help shepherd his nominee through the Senate....While we still have many lower court nominees to confirm, there is no higher priority facing the Senate. We must make this process swift and free from partisan politics. The Senate should act quickly to ensure the new justice is in place by October.” - **Senator Hutchison**

“Justice O’Connor has served the court well for more than twenty years and the nation owes her a debt of gratitude for her service. She has held the post with dignity and intelligence, and I wish her well as she leaves public service to devote time to her family. I look forward to participating in the confirmation process in a fair-minded and just way to confirm a nominee to interpret the Constitution and respect Justice O’Connor’s wish to step down.” - **Senator Crapo**